

Sentinel Site Visits and Partner Meetings Related to Quality Monitoring of Tuberculosis Medicines in the Philippines

Manila, Philippines

September 12 and 21-27, 2008

Trip Report

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About USP DQI

The United States Pharmacopeia Drug Quality and Information (USP DQI) Program, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Cooperative Agreement HRN-A-00-00-00017-00), provides technical leadership to more than 30 developing countries to strengthen their drug quality assurance programs, ensure the quality of medicines and promote public health. USP DQI helps build local, national and regional capacity to improve the standards of drug manufacturing and distribution, reduce the impact of infectious diseases, mitigate the effects of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and advance the appropriate use of medicines. This document does not necessarily represent the views or opinions of USAID. It may be reproduced if credit is given to USP DQI.

Abstract

USP DQI Program staff, Ms. Krech and Mr. Raymond, visited two of the six pilot sentinel sites which will soon commence sample collection and testing to monitor the quality of tuberculosis medicines. The sites visited were: Malolos City, Bulacan (Local Government Unit, or “LGU”) and San Fernando City, La Union, Ilocos Region (Center for Health Development, or “CHD-1”). USP DQI staff were accompanied by two Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) staff and one representative from the National Tuberculosis Program (NTP). Samples were collected from the public and private sector and tested using the Minilab[®]. Ms. Krech and Mr. Raymond met with partners from USAID, BFAD, World Health Organization (WHO) and the NTP to discuss current and future planned activities.

Recommended Citation

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Key Words

Philippines, tuberculosis, medicine quality monitoring, Minilab[®], Bureau of Food and Drugs, Department of Health, National Tuberculosis Program, Thin Layer Chromatography, Malolos City, Ilocos

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The author also wishes to thank Dr. Rosalind Vianzon from the National Tuberculosis Program of the Department of Health (DOH), Center for Disease Prevention and Control for her help in organizing the site visits and her dedication to finalizing the BFAD-DOH Memorandum of Understanding and Department Order to commence the tuberculosis medicine quality monitoring in the six sentinel sites.

Dr. Socorro Escalante from the WHO Philippines country office was instrumental in getting all the partners together to discuss ongoing, past, and future medicine quality monitoring activities for TB, Malaria, and essential medicines and how the various partners can collaborate in the future together.

A special thank you goes to the BFAD and NTP team that traveled with USP DQI staff to facilitate the site visits: Ms. Arlene Rivera, NTP; and Ms. Maria Victoria Calub and Ms. Rosario D.C. Dalangin from BFAD.

The author sincerely appreciates the enthusiasm and interest in the TB monitoring program by Dr. Corazon Manoloto and Ms. Meredith Gaffney from the USAID/Philippines Mission who both participated in the site visit to Malolos City.

Finally, the author would also like to thank Dr. Aye Aye Thwin, Chief, Office of Health, USAID/Philippines; and Mr. Anthony Boni, USP DQI Cognizant Technical Officer and Ms. Veerle Coigne, Pharmaceutical Management Advisor, from USAID in Washington, D.C. for their support and advice.

ACRONYMS

BFAD	Bureau of Food and Drugs
CHD	Center for Health Development
DOH	Department of Health
EU	European Union
FDC	Fixed Dose Combinations
FDRO	Food and Drug Regulation Officer
GPHF	Global Pharma Health Fund
LGU	Local Government Unit
MOH	Ministry of Health
NCDPC	National Center for Disease Prevention and Control
NTP	National TB Control Program
QA	Quality Assurance
QC	Quality Control
TB	Tuberculosis
TLC	Thin Layer Chromatography
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USP DQI	United States Pharmacopeia Drug Quality and Information
WHO	World Health Organization
WPRO	WHO Western Pacific Regional Office

Background

The Philippines is one of the high-burden countries for tuberculosis¹ (TB) and has documented existence of poor quality medicines.² TB is one of the top 10 leading causes of morbidity, and the National TB Control Program (NTP) represents the Government of the Philippines's commitment to addressing the problem. The NTP is implemented nationwide in all government health centers and selected government hospitals. Its objectives are to detect active TB cases (at least 70%) and cure at least 85% of them. Achieving and sustaining targets will eventually lead to the decline of the TB problem in the Philippines. However, achievement of these targets is hindered by several factors, such as drug resistance substandard drugs.

Worst affected by this health threat are the populations of developing countries for whom high-quality, inexpensive drugs are not available in sufficient quantities. Neither readily available in these countries are the resources for implementing effective drug quality control systems.

USP DQI, with support from USAID/Philippines, recognizes the need to establish a drug quality monitoring program for TB medicines. Following discussions between USP DQI, BFAD, and DOH in April 2007, all partners agreed on the importance of establishing such a program. This drug quality monitoring project aims to strengthen national drug quality assurance systems with two primary objectives:

1. Obtain evidence-based data from the field on the quality of selected TB medicines
2. Reduce the number of substandard TB medicines circulating in the Philippines

In May 2008, USP DQI conducted a training course on the use of Global Pharma Health Fund (GPHF) Minilab[®] for 27 BFAD, Center for Health Development (CHD), and Local Government Unit (LGU) health officers in Manila on monitoring the quality of TB medicines (ethambutol, isoniazid, pyrazinamide, rifampicin and their fixed dose combinations).

The trainees came from six selected pilot sites (hereafter referred to as “sentinel sites”) composed of CHDs and LGUs which represent the three major islands of the country. Aside from having a high TB prevalence, the sentinel sites were chosen based on the presence of analysts and inspectors in the CHDs and the possibility of implementing the project successfully. See *Annex 1* for a map of sentinel sites locations.

Luzon – CHD 1: Ilocos and LGU: Malolos City, in coordinating with CHD 3: Central Luzon

Visayas – CHD 7: Cebu City and LGU: Iloilo City, coordinating with CHD 6: Western Visayas

Mindanao – CHD 11: Davao City and LGU: Zamboanga City, coordinating with CHD 9: Zamboanga Peninsula

The Minilab[®] training modules were designed to acquaint national priority health personnel in the field and laboratory staff with the basics of sampling and testing tuberculosis medicines in order to establish a sustainable drug quality surveillance program in the country.

¹ WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific Fact Sheets. Tuberculosis; March 23, 2007. url: http://www.wpro.who.int/media_centre/fact_sheets/fs_20060829, accessed 01/25/2008.

² M. McGinnis. A Matrix of Drug Quality Reports Affecting USAID-Assisted Countries by the USP Drug Quality and Information Program, 2008. url: <http://www.usp.org/pdf/EN/dqi/ghcDrugQualityMatrix.pdf>.

Each of the sentinel sites will collect TB medicines to test for quality using Minilabs[®]. Samples that fail basic tests will be sent to the national laboratory for confirmatory testing. Minilab[®] testing does not replace pharmacopeial or legally accepted test methods; instead, it identifies products requiring further investigation. No regulatory action can be initiated on the basis of the test results, and all samples considered to be potentially counterfeit or substandard are referred for testing to verify and confirm the findings of the initial screenings.

The findings from data analysis will be documented and used to help the national TB program, as well as relevant government agencies and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), develop and implement appropriate strategies to reduce the number of substandard drugs.

Purpose of Trip

1. Conduct site visits to Malolos City, Bulacan (LGU) and San Fernando City, La Union, Ilocos Region (CHD-1) to observe how the health officials are carrying out sample collection and testing of TB medicines with the Minilab[®] and to provide technical assistance when needed to reinforce skills learned during the May training.
2. Meet with partners from the DOH NTP, USAID/Philippines Mission, WHO, BFAD and the European Union (EU) BFAD/DOH Technical Assistance Program to finalize the study sampling and reporting protocol and to discuss future joint activities.

Source of Funding

This trip was supported with funds from the USAID/Philippines Mission.

Overview of Activities

September 12, 2008

Meeting at the WHO Country Office to discuss past and current medicine quality monitoring activities in the Philippines to coordinate efforts between partners

Participants: Ms. Maria Lourdes Santiago, BFAD
Ma Victoria Calub, BFAD
Ms. Frances Laboy, BFAD
Dr. Klara Tisocki, GTZ/BFAD
Dr. Corazon Manaloto, USAID
Ms. Meredith Gaffney, USAID
Ms. Laura Krech, USP DQI
Dr. Socorro Escalante, WHO Philippines
Dr. Michael Voniatis, WHO Stop TB Philippines
Dr. Rosalyn Vianzon, DOH NCDPC
Ms. Arlene Rivera, DOH NCDPC

1. Malaria Medicine Quality Monitoring Activities

In 2007 (Phase I), antimalarial samples were collected in Isabela and Cagayan. All 21 samples passed. Only licensed outlets were sampled in Phase I. In Phase II, samples were collected in Palawan and from licensed and unlicensed outlets. Results of the testing have not been finalized.

2. Tuberculosis Medicine Quality Monitoring Activities

DOH and BFAD, in partnership with USP DQI/USAID, will commence TB sample collection and testing in 6 sites: CHD 1 Ilocos, CHD 7 Visayas, CHD 11 Davao, Zamboanga City (LGU), Iloilo City (LGU), and Malolos City (LGU).

USP DQI, BFAD, and DOH staff will be visiting CHD 1 Ilocos and Malolos City (LGU) September 22 and 23. Some specific activities to be performed with the staff responsible for analyzing the samples are: sample collection, using the Minilab[®] to test one or two samples, a practice run to fill out the draft sample collection/testing forms, and a question and answer session so the USP DQI team can provide technical assistance and feedback.

BFAD is waiting for official approval of all collection and reporting forms.

There will only be one Memorandum of Understanding for signature between DOH-BFAD, DOH-NCDPC, City Government of the LGU Pilot Site, and the DOH-CHD Partner Overseer.

3. Essential Medicine Quality Monitoring Activities

In 2007, WHO provided BFAD with money to purchase equipment and reagents for inspectors to perform color reactions at the outlet level. However, color reactions only provide information about the presence of active ingredient, not whether substandard medicine or impurities are present. For this reason, it was decided that TLC will be used instead of color reactions.

Currently, there are plans to purchase 2 Minilabs[®] from GPHF and 6 “suitcase kits,” which will contain similar equipment to the Minilab[®] except that all the equipment will be procured locally, thus reducing costs. Secondary reference standards will be purchased from GPHF because the Minilabs[®] and suitcase kits must use the same standards for quality screening. Training will be held with WHO funding to teach appropriate BFAD staff to perform basic quality testing of essential medicines. Because some BFAD staff are fully trained in using Minilabs[®], they could provide this training. USP DQI can provide technical assistance if requested.

4. Final Agreements and Other Details

- There are 8 Minilabs[®] for the USP DQI TB project (2 at BFAD for additional training/testing in the future and 6 in the sentinel sites); 2 Minilabs[®] and 6 suitcase kits will soon be purchased by WHO.
- It is important that the suitcase kits are consistent with the Minilabs[®] so that the same results for quality testing will be achieved. For example, the same type of TLC plates should be used; the same monographs from the Minilab[®] manual should be followed, etc.
- In 2009, collaboration between the TB, essential medicines, and malaria quality monitoring projects is desired. It would make sense to have the same or very similar sampling, testing, and reporting methodologies. Circulating and sharing results is also important because BFAD is ultimately responsible for taking regulatory actions.

September 22, 2008

Site Visit to Malolos City, Bulacan

(Site visit agenda and list of contacts are found in Annexes 2 and 3)

Participants: Ms. Laura Krech, USP DQI
Mr. Christopher Raymond, USP DQI
Dr. Corazon Manaloto, USAID/Philippines
Ms. Meredith Gaffney, USAID/Philippines
Ms. Ma Victoria Calub, BFAD
Ms. Rosario D.C. Dalangin, BFAD
Ms. Arlene Rivera, NTP
Dr. Frederick (Eric) Villano, Regional Health Unit Malolos
Dr. Ernesto Bontoyan, NTP

The USP DQI, BFAD, USAID, and NTP team first went to the City Health Office in Malolos to meet with Dr. Batanes, a trainee from the May Minilab[®] course, then went to the Malolos Regional Health Unit IV and examined a room which was added onto the health unit specifically to perform basic testing using the Minilab[®]. The size, temperature, and ventilation are adequate.

USP DQI staff requested to see what TB medicines were being distributed at the clinic and selected a 4 fixed dose combination (Rifampicin 150mg, Isoniazid 75mg, Pyrazinamide 400mg, and Ethambutol 275 mg) marketed under the name Fix Com 4 to be tested. It is registered by Natrapharm and locally manufactured and packaged by Lloyd Laboratories. Due to time constraints, only one of the four active ingredients could be tested, and the group chose rifampicin. The sample passed visual inspection but did not fully disintegrate within the 30 minute time period (as required by the specifications for non slow-release and non enteric-coated tablets). This test will need to be repeated.

Dr. Villano trained another member in the regional health unit to help perform basic tests, and the two worked together on two TLC plates (see photos in Annex 4). The results showed that the FDC contained less than 80% of the amount of rifampicin claimed on the label. In the Philippines, a counterfeit medicine is one that has less than 80% of the active ingredient claimed on the label; therefore, this product could be considered counterfeit/substandard based on the Republic of the Philippines Act 8203 'Special Law on Counterfeit Drugs.'. However, the TLC for rifampicin will need to be repeated and verification testing performed before conclusions can be drawn. Next steps include performing TLC on the other three medicines in the FDC and sending the sample to BFAD for verification testing.

September 23, 2008

Site Visit to San Fernando City, La Union (Ilocos Region-CHD 1)

Participants: Ms. Laura Krech, USP DQI
Mr. Christopher Raymond, USP DQI
Ms. Ma Victoria Calub, BFAD
Ms. Rosario D.C. Dalangin, BFAD
Ms. Arlene Rivera, NTP
Dr. Eduardo Janairo, Director IV, CHD 1
Mr. Ryan Lewis, FDRO II, CHD 1
Ms. Veronica Obille, FDRO II, CHD 1

Ms. Joselyn Guzman, FDRO II, CHD 1

Meeting with Dr. Eduardo Janairo, Director IV, CHD 1

USP DQI, BFAD, NTP, and CHD 1 staff met with Dr. Janairo to discuss the TB quality monitoring study. He is supportive of the study and interested in expanding activities to test a variety of essential medicines. He would like monitoring in his region to become sustainable and would also like to build a national reference laboratory in Ilocos for TB and HIV/AIDS. Dr. Janairo has been involved in investigating substandard and counterfeit medicines in the past and knows how important quality monitoring is. He envisions having a unified program to fight counterfeit and substandard medicines in the Ilocos region as part of the reference laboratory.

Obtaining TB Samples Using the “Mystery Shopper” Technique

The team visited the DOTS TB clinic and wards of the public hospital next to CHD 1. Mr. Lewis and the team obtained TB samples from public and private pharmacies (all legal) in San Fernando City. The group used the “mystery shopper” technique. At a private pharmacy, Mr. Raymond told the pharmacist that he had active TB, and the pharmacist dispensed an incorrect regimen of pyrazinamide and rifampicin for two months and wrote instructions on a physician’s prescription pad. It is illegal for a pharmacist to dispense TB medicines without a physician’s prescription and against regulations for a pharmacist to write a prescription. Ms. Krech and Mr. Lewis also purchased TB medicines from another private pharmacy without a prescription.

Basic quality testing using the Minilab[®] was performed at the CHD on pyrazinamide from four different TB samples (single dose and FDCs). The samples tested were: single dose 500 mg pyrazinamide locally manufactured by Scheele; 4 FDC rifampicin, isoniazid, pyrazinamide and ethambutol called “Quadtab” locally manufactured by Medichem and distributed by United Laboratories; 4 FDC called “Myrin-P forte” manufactured by Wyeth Philippines and distributed by Metro Drug; 4 FDC from the Global Drug Facility Stop TB Program manufactured by Svizera in India and distributed by Svizera in Europe.

USP DQI staff observed the testing skills of Mr. Lewis and Ms. Obille and provided technical assistance when needed. Ms. Calub and Ms. Dalangin from BFAD demonstrated to two additional Food and Drug Regulation Officers (FDROs) – Ms. Marilyn Fonbuena and Ms. Purisima Lozano – how to perform the disintegration and TLC tests. Photos of these activities can be found in Annex 4.

The team found that one of the samples did not pass disintegration (Quadtab) and that the sample of single dose pyrazinamide, locally manufactured, appeared to be substandard. However, these are unofficial results, and these tests will need to be repeated according to the study protocol and then sent to BFAD for verification testing.

September 25, 2008

Site visit debriefing with BFAD and NTP staff

Participants: Ms. Laura Krech, USP DQI
Mr. Christopher Raymond, USP DQI
Ms. Ma Victoria Calub, BFAD
Ms. Rosario D.C. Dalangin, BFAD

Ms. Arlene Rivera, NTP
Dr. Ernesto Bontoyan, NTP

USP DQI staff discussed the site visits and what should be done for follow up regarding the samples that did not initially pass basic testing. The rest of the meeting focused on how to randomize the sampling locations to notify the LGU and CHD staff where they should sample from as well defining the sampling schedule. BFAD agreed to provide USP DQI with a master list of all registered outlets and establishments that dispense medicine in the public and private sectors at the six study sites. USP DQI agreed to randomize and stratify the outlets and establishments to come up with a list of which specific hospitals, health clinics, dispensaries, botikas, and LGU procurement warehouses will be sampled in the public sector and which hospitals, health clinics, drug outlets, drug traders, and licensed drug distributors will be sampled in the private sector. No collection will occur at informal establishments or manufacturers, and BFAD will select the priority list of medicines for sampling, particularly the single-dose medicines procured by LGUs.

BFAD has interviewed three candidates for the project secretariat position of the TB medicine quality study. The position will be funded by USP DQI using USAID funds. All parties agree that it will be important to have someone who will closely coordinate this study, communicate with the sites, and monitor the results. One candidate was selected and offered the position to begin work in November 2008.

USP DQI learned from BFAD staff that there are two Minilabs[®] which were purchased six years ago and are currently in Regulation Division 1 at BFAD to test counterfeit medicines using the colorimetric and TLC tests. The project secretariat should follow up with Regulation Division 1 to find out the status of the Minilabs and what they are testing.

The group also discussed when would be the best time for the next site visits to Mindanao and Visayas. BFAD suggested that the trip should be planned for late February or early March. All parties agreed that these visits are valuable in terms of motivating the staff working at the sentinel sites and clarifying any technical questions the staff have. Also, meeting on-site personally with upper level management (CHD Directors and LGU city health officers), demonstrating the Minilab[®] and the work the study involves, creates enthusiasm and buy-in for the TB monitoring project to succeed and expand.

If possible, BFAD staff may go on their own before February to visit some of the other sites, in particular Zamboanga. USP DQI staff are not permitted to travel there because of a state of heightened security and unrest.

September 26, 2008

Meeting with USAID/Philippines Mission Office of Health

Participants: Dr. Aye Aye Thwin, Chief

Dr. Corazon Manaloto, Development Assistance Specialist

Ms. Meredith Gaffney, Senior Technical Advisor

Ms. Laura Krech, USP DQI

Mr. Chris Raymond, USP DQI

Ms. Krech and Mr. Raymond discussed the outcomes of the site visits, the status of the TB medicine quality monitoring project – including the delays in sample collection and testing which are due to finalization of the MOU and the DO between BFAD and the DOH-and the next steps for the project (see “Next Steps” section below).

Ms. Krech agreed to draft a narrative to accompany the FY 09 work plan and send it to the Mission for official approval. In FY 10 a general meeting will be planned to discuss the results of the TB monitoring project and what are the possibilities for expansion and sustainability among the LGUs and CHDs.

If the tuberculosis medicine quality monitoring project proceeds successfully, and if BFAD takes the proper actions when substandard and/or counterfeit medicines are found, USAID will consider expanding the program to other medicines.

Dr. Aye Aye recommended that USP DQI should give a presentation about the TB study to the USAID Chief of Parties the next time a representative is in the Philippines. USAID staff also mentioned that it would be helpful to meet with the DOH Undersecretary Alexander Padilla who heads the National Drug Policy - Pharmaceutical Management Unit.

Next Steps:

- BFAD-DOH will finalize an official department order to begin sampling and testing TB medicines by December 2008.
- An MOU between DOH-BFAD, DOH-NCDPC, City Government of the LGU Pilot Site, and the DOH-CHD Partner Overseer will be finalized in November 2008.
- BFAD management will need to determine how the CHD FDROs and LGUs can work together to perform sampling on the same time schedule.
- Once hired, the project secretariat should follow up with Regulation Division 1 to find out the status of the Minilabs[®] and what they are testing.
- In February/March 2009, USP DQI staff will meet with representatives from the Global Fund. USP DQI already works closely with the GF in other countries (Cambodia), and it would be beneficial to understand what activities they prioritize in the Philippines.
- USP DQI will work closely with BFAD and USP chemists to plan the upcoming GLP training on WHO prequalification/ISO 17025 certification for the BFAD laboratory.
- USP DQI staff will continue to follow up with BFAD and WHO on the status of the “BFAD in a suitcase” initiative and will provide technical assistance if requested.
- USP DQI will continue regular communication with Dr. Klara Tisocki from German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)/BFAD regarding the protocol which will be developed for the “BFAD in a suitcase” initiative and maintain a dialogue as to how EU Formula 1 monies could potentially be used to perform quality testing in other provinces and LGUs, especially LGU procurement offices.
- USP DQI will draft a narrative to accompany the FY 09 work plan and send it to the Mission for official approval.

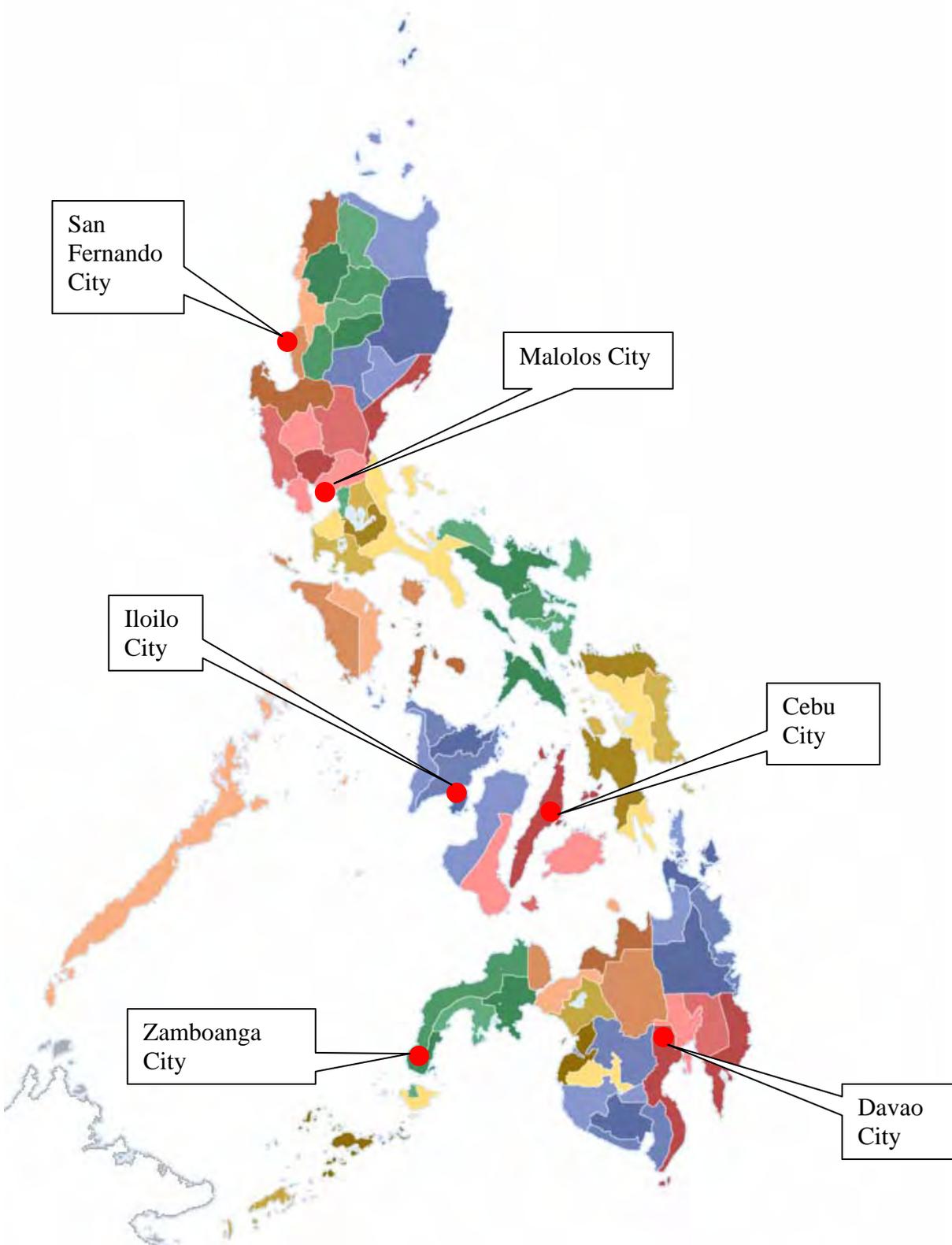
Map of sentinel site locations in the Philippines

PHILIPPINES

The six selected pilot sentinel sites are composed of Centers for Health Development (CHDs) and Local Government Units (LGUs) which represent the three major islands of the country. Aside from having a high TB prevalence, the sentinel sites were chosen based on the presence of analysts and inspectors in the CHDs and the possibility of implementing the project successfully.

<p>Luzon: Ilocos Region</p> <p>Ilocos Norte Ilocos Sur La Union Pangasinan</p> <p>Office : San Fernando City</p>	<p>Luzon: Bulacan Region</p> <p>Malolos City</p> <p>Office: Malolos City</p>
<p>Visayas: Cebu Province</p> <p>Bohol Cebu Negros Oriental Siquijor</p> <p>Office: Cebu City</p>	<p>Visayas: Iloilo Province</p> <p>Iloilo City</p> <p>Office: Iloilo City</p>
<p>Mindanao: Davao Region</p> <p>Compostela Valley Davao Del Norte Davao Del Sur Davao Oriental</p> <p>Office : Davao City</p>	<p>Mindanao</p> <p>Zamboanga City</p> <p>Office: Zamboanga City</p>

Map of sentinel site locations in the Philippines



ITINERARY FOR FIELD VISIT

Pilot Implementation of Quality Monitoring of Anti-Tuberculosis Drugs
Using Minilabs®

22 – 24 September 2008

Date	Time	Activities	Venue / Destination
22 September Monday	7:00AM	Departure from BFAD	Somerset Millenium Hotel, Makati City 104 Aguirre Street, Legaspi Village, Makati Ctiy
	8:00AM	Short Meeting of the Field Visit Team	Somerset Millenium Hotel Lobby
	8:30AM	Departure for City Government of Malolos	City Government of Malolos 2/F City Hall, Malolos City 3000 Bulacan +6344-6623594 / 7916608 / 7915943 (Mayor: HONORABLE DANILO A. DOMINGO)
	11:00AM	FIELD VISIT	LGU MALOLOS CITY
	12:00PM	Lunch Break	
	2:00PM	Departure for Hotel	Hotel @ San Juan, La Union
23 September Tuesday	9:30AM	Departure for Center for Health Development for Ilocos	Center for Health Development for Ilocos Parian, San Fernando City 2500 La Union +6372-2427035 / 8884326 / 2424774 / 8883478 (Director: DR. EDUARDO C. JANAIRÓ)
	10:00AM	FIELD VISIT	CHD 1 FOR ILOCOS
	12:00PM	Lunch Break	
	2:00PM	Departure for Hotel	Hotel @ San Juan, La Union
24 September Wednesday	10:00AM	Departure for Manila	Somerset Millenium Hotel, Makati City 104 Aguirre Street, Legaspi Village, Makati Ctiy Bureau of Food and Drugs Civic Drive, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City

DEBRIEFING

25 – 26 September 2008

Date	Time	Activities	Venue / Destination
25 September Thursday	9:00AM	Debriefing (BFAD, NCDPC, USP-DQI, and USAID)	BFAD – Conference Room A
26 September Friday	8:00AM	Debriefing (Laura and Chris with USAID)	USAID

**FIELD VISIT: Pilot Implementation on the Quality Monitoring of
Anti-Tuberculosis Drugs Using the Minilab Kits**

Malolos City Government and CHD 1: Parian, San Fernando, La Union
22 – 24 September 2008

FIELD VISIT TEAM:

BUREAU / AGENCY	NAME
<p>DOH – BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS</p> <p>Office Address: Civic Drive, Filinvest Corporate City Alabang, City of Muntinlupa +632-8070721 / 8070751 www.bfad.gov.ph bfad@bfad.gov.ph</p>	<p>MARIA VICTORIA P. CALUB Food – Drug Regulation Officer III Laboratory Services Division +632-8424625 +63915-7880736 mvpcalub@yahoo.com</p> <p>ROSARIO D.C. DALANGIN Food – Drug Regulation Officer III Laboratory Services Division +632-8424625 +63916-4642400 chatski19@yahoo.com</p>
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<p>UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID)</p> <p>USAID Office Address: 8th Floor PNB Financial Center President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard Pasay City, 1308 Philippines +632-5529869 http://philippines.usaid.gov</p>	<p>DR. CORAZON R. MANALOTO, D.T.M & H Development Assistance Specialist Office of Population, Health and Nutrition +632-5529869 / 5529999 (fax) +63918-9157715 cmanaloto@usaid.gov</p>
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Photos from the Philippines site visits



Dr. Corazon Manaloto and Ms. Meredith Gaffney, from USAID/Philippines, and Ms. Laura Krech meet with Dr. Victor Antonio R. Batanes, a City Health Officer of Malolos who participated in the Minilab[®] training at BFAD in May 2008.



Site Visit to Malolos City, Bulacan - the Regional Health Unit where the Minilab[®] is kept and basic quality testing is performed



Dr. F. Villano, a physician at the Malolos Regional Health Unit, and his colleague Arnel perform visual inspection, disintegration, and TLC on rifampicin from a locally procured FDC TB medicine.



Ms. Ma Victoria Calub and Ms. Rosario D.C. Dalangin (BFAD); Ms. Arlene Rivera (NTP); Ms. Veronica Obille, Ms. Marilyn Fonbuena, and Ms. Purisima Lozano (FDROs CHD1) practice visual inspection, disintegration, and TLC for pyrazinamide from four different medicine samples.



Mr. Chris Raymond (USP DQI) and Mr. Ryan Lewis (FDRO II, CHD 1) look at the GPHF monograph to test TB medicines for pyrazinamide.